In the specification:

On page 1, after the title insert:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a section 371 filing of international application PCT/DE2004/002466 filed on November 4, 2004 and published, in German, as international publication no. WO 2005/045092 A2 on May 19, 2005, which claims priority of German application no. 103 52 143.7 filed on November 4, 2003, which applications are hereby incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

On page 2, between the fourth and fifth paragraphs insert:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

On page 7, between the third and fourth paragraphs insert:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

On page 7, after the description of Fig. 2 insert:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Rewrite the paragraph spanning the bottom of page 7 and the top of page 8 to read as follows:

In the present embodiment example, all the partial compartments in the upper outer walls 7 as well as the lower [[8]] outer walls 8 exhibit upper and lower openings 10, 23, respectively, which can be closed tightly with covers 11 of a uniform size. The evacuation compartments 3 also contain vacuum connections 16 in the covers 11a closing the openings in the side outer walls 9, whereby in the present embodiment example these side covers 11a exhibit a different side geometry to the cover 11 of the openings in the upper outer walls 7 and lower outer walls 8. Moreover, two suction openings 12 are also

located in each separating wall 4 above and below the transportation plane 5 respectively. These suction openings 12 are arranged in sequence and parallel to the substrate 1 as well as ~~vertically~~ perpendicularly to the direction of transportation 13 and can be closed tightly with a closure 14.

On page 8, kindly rewrite the third and fourth paragraphs as follows:

The third coating compartment 3c, on the other hand, exhibits the same configuration as the second 3b. However, the sputter atmospheres under which the second and third coating compartments 3b, 3c are operated differ from one another. In order to prevent a reciprocal contamination, a gas separation is provided between them. For this purpose, the transportation plane 5 is separated off from the evacuation compartment 2 by two horizontal elements 17 arranged parallel to the substrate 1 above and below the transportation plane 5. While the lower horizontal element 17 tightly closes the partial compartment 19 located below it towards the transportation plane 5, the upper horizontal element 17 exhibits four suction openings 12 arranged n two rows, via which the separated transportation level 5 can be evacuated by means of vacuum pumps 16 connected to a side cover 11a of the upper partial compartment 18. The suction openings 12 leading into the adjoining coating compartments 3b, 3c in the separating walls 4 of the upper partial compartment 18 are tightly closed owing to the function of the upper partial compartment 18 as a gas separation.

The evacuation of the adjoining, second and third, coating compartments [[2]] 3b and 3c is via the same evacuation compartment 2 as the gas separation. A further element running vertical 20 and parallel to the separating walls is positioned for this in the lower partial compartment 19, which subdivides the lower partial compartment 19 into two sections 21. Each of the openings located in the side outer walls 9 extends over both sections 21 and the covers 11a closing these lower openings 23 exhibit two vacuum pump connections 16 respectively, on in each section 21.

On page 9, kindly rewrite the second paragraph as follows:

Fig. 2 therefore shows a section comprising the gas separation and an adjoining coating compartment 3 with a magnetron 15 in a sputter-~~up~~down position of a vacuum pump system corresponding to the invention with a substrate 1 moved through the system on transport rollers 22. In this embodiment variant, the magnetrons 15 are only introduced through the upper openings 10 in the upper outer walls 7 of the system and the vacuum pumps 16 are (exclusively also) mounted directly on the covers 11, which close the upper and lower opening 10, 23 in the upper outer walls 7 or lower outer walls 8. In order to adjust the pump power of this design embodiment to that according to Fig. 1, where to (in each side outer wall 9 one) vacuum pumps 16 are connected, two vacuum pumps 16 each are located in a row of pumps ~~vertical~~ perpendicular to the direction of transportation 13, which is not discernible in the selected figure as a result of the pumps arranged one after the other in the direction of view. Corresponding to the arrangement of the gas separation in the lower partial compartment 19, the suction openings 12 in this embodiment variant, which lead to the adjoining coating compartments 3, are tightly closed in this section 21 with seals 14.

Please add to the end of the specification, the Abstract of the Disclosure as presented on the following page: